

Message Text

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TAGS: ENRG, EMAE, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET GIGANTOMANIA STILL ALIVE-VOLGODONSK HEAVY MACHINE

BUILDING PLANT TO BE KAMAZ OF TENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN

USDOC FOR BEWT/USSR

1. SUMMARY -DESPITE CRITICISM BY SOME SOVIET ECONOMISTS AND OFFICIALS OF SUCH GIGANTIC PROJECTS AS THE KAMAZ TRUCK PLANT, CONCEPT OF LARGE-SCALE ENTERPRISES REMAINS ALIVE. SOVIET PRESS REPORTS ON PLANS FOR THE VOLGODONSK HEAVY MACHINE BUILDING PLANT, WHICH IS TO PRODUCE EQUIPMENT FOR ATOMIC POWER STATIONS, SPECIFICALLY CALL IT THE "NEW KAMAZ" AND CLAIM IT WILL HAVE "NO EQUAL IN THE WORLD." SOVIETS CLAIM NEW PLANT'S PRODUCTION OF MODERN REACTORS OF ONE TO ONE AND HALF MILLION KILOWATTS UNIT CAPACITY WILL PROVIDE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO MEET 10 FYP GOAL OF ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF 13.5-14 MILLION KILOWATTS/ATOMIC POWER (ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF TOTAL PLANNED INCREASE IN CAPACITY OF 67-70 MILLION KILOWATTS). PRESS REPORTS REFERS TO LABOR SHORTAGES, AS WELL AS NEED FOR SPECIAL EQUIPMENT NOT PRESENTLY PRODUCED IN SOVIET UNION (SUCH AS CRANES WITH 1200 TON CAPACITY).
END SUMMARY.

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2. SOVIET PRESS IS BEGINNING TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON VOLGODONSK HEAVY MACHINE BUILDING PLANT, REFERRED TO AS THE "NEW KAMAZ."

MOST DETAILED IS SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA INTERVIEW (JANUARY 25) WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF POWER AND ELECTRIFICATION N.M. IVANTSOV. IVANTSOV SAYS PLANT, DESIGNED TO PRODUCE LARGE ATOMIC REACTORS OF UNIT CAPACITY FROM ONE TO ONE AND ONE-HALF MILLION KILOWATTS EACH, WILL HAVE "NO EQUAL IN USSR OR WORLD." CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITY, TO INCLUDE HALF-MILLION SQUARE METERS OF NEW HOUSING, WILL BE UNDER DIRECTION OF NEWLY CREATED DEPARTMENT OF MINISTRY TITLED "VOLGODONSKENERGOSTROY." IVANTSOV STRESSES ROLE PLANT WILL PLAY IN MEETING 10 FYP GOAL OF ADDITIONAL CAPACITY OF 13.5-14 MILLION KILOWATTS ATOMIC POWER, ABOUT ONE-FIFTH OF TOTAL PLANNED INCREASE IN CAPACITY OF 67-70 MILLION KILOWATTS.

3. MAGNITUDE OF PROJECT INDICATED BY TOTAL AREA OF 660 HECTARES, ON WHICH WILL BE LOCATED THREE PRODUCTION SHOPS, AUXILIARY BUILDINGS SUCH AS 260,000 KILOWATT THERMOELECTRIC PLANT, AND SPECIAL APPROACH CANAL AND BERTHS FOR HANDLING OVERSIZE CARGOES. PLANT EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE 15,000 TON PRESSES; SHEET METAL ROLLERS CAPABLE OF SHAPING SHEETS OVER 250-MILLIMETERS THICK AND FIVE METERS WIDE; HANDLING EQUIPMENT WITH TOTAL LIFT CAPACITY OF 1,000 TONS; FURNACES OF 10 METER DIAMETER AND 7 METER DEPTH; STEEL TEMPERING PITS OF 12 METER DIAMETER AND 16 METER DEPTH. IVANTSOV MENTIONS THAT SOME OF EQUIPMENT, ESPECIALLY 1200 TON CAPACITY CRANES FOR HANDLING REACTORS, ARE NOT PRODUCED PRESENTLY IN SOVIET UNION.

4. IVANTSOV DESCRIBES CONSTRUCTION TASK AT VOLGODONSK AS MORE COMPLEX THAN KAMAZ PROJECT. HE SAYS THAT ENORMOUS WEIGHTS OF MACHINERY AND REACTORS, FOR EXAMPLE, REQUIRE SUCH HIGH-STRENGTH FOUNDATIONS IN BUILDINGS THAT 35-40 REINFORCED CONCRETE PILES ARE NEEDED IN PLACES WHERE 4-6 SUCH PILES WERE ADEQUATE AT KAMAZ. MAIN PRODUCTION STRUCTURE WILL HAVE HEIGHT OF 45 METERS AND SPAN OF 42 METERS. PRESENTLY OVER 7,000 WORKERS ARE BUSY ON THE PLANT, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN OUTPUT FROM A FIRST LINE IN 1977. ALTHOUGH MOST EXPERIENCED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS WERE SHIFTED FROM OTHER SITES TO VOLGODONSK, IVANTSOV SAYS FORCE IS STILL INADEQUATE TO MEET 1976 PLAN CONSTRUCTION GOAL OF TOTAL VALUE 100 MILLION RUBLES (HE CITES PRESENT RATE OF ABOUT 200,000 RUBLES PER 24-HOURS).

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5. COMMENT-ALTHOUGH VOLGODONSK PROJECT HAS RECEIVED LITTLE PRESS ATTENTION UNTIL RECENTLY, APPARENTLY SOVIETS INTEND TO PUT SPOTLIGHT ON IT AS SYMBOL OF DRIVE FOR GREATER OUTPUT OF ATOMIC POWER. IVANTSOV'S STRONG HINTS OF PROBLEMS WITH LABOR SUPPLY, PROVISION OF SPECIAL EQUIPMENT, AND NEED FOR ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE (HOUSING, SHOPS, ETC.) ECHO MANY OF THE SAME COMPLAINTS HEARD ABOUT KAMAZ DIFFICULTIES. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES MIGHT BE AVAILABLE IN CONNECTION WITH THE VOLGODONSK PROJECT, ESPECIALLY FOR SUCH ITEMS AS THE 1200 TON CAPACITY CRANE. STOESEL

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